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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1907.

The President's Message.
President Roosevelt's preoccupation
with economic questions, and particularly
with the relation of the national govern-
ment to the solution of such ques-
tions, dominates his annual message even
more strongly than it did his former
communications. Considered most of
which have been distinguished by their
frank recognition of our industrial and
commercial evils, and of the necessity
for a considerable enlargement of state
functions in order to cope successfully
with them. Over one-third of the pres-
ent message, or twenty-four pages out of
sixty-three, is devoted to the development
of his corporation policy, to a restatement
of his belief in the social advantages
of income and inheritance taxation,
the discussion of various aspects of the
labor problem, to setting forth the value
of mechanical and industrial education,
and the like. We may note the slightly
less militant tone in the President's ob-
servations as to these matters than in
his wont, but there is no abatement of
purpose, and through them all there runs
the abiding conviction that the primary
objects for which governments were in-
stituted will not be fully attained until
others have been found to apply ancient
principles of justice to "those who com-
mit crimes only rendered possible by the
complex conditions of modern life."

Conditions may differ as to the wisdom
or expediency of Mr. Roosevelt's
economic proposals; there will be no
doubt as to the ends aimed at, or as to
the means by which he would attain his
ends. The President is a thoroughgoing
nationalist, as well as a firm believer in
the efficacy of State action to accomplish
social and economic reforms. On almost
every page of his message may be found
some suggestion for what he calls "ex-
tension of Federal activity." His plans
for the regulation of railroads and his
incorporation law are familiar to the
public. Mr. Roosevelt certainly no doubt
as to the existence of Federal power to
charter such corporations, and his con-
viction that the legislation he proposes
would benefit railroad and other cor-
porations is equally pronounced. As an-
ticipated, he recommends the amend-
ment, but not the repeal, of the Sherman
trust law, so as to permit reasonable
combinations for the carrying on of
trade and industry, and he repeats his
advice of last year that the railroads be
allowed to enter into traffic agreements
under supervision of the Interstate Com-
merce Commission. These recommendations
do not carry with them any intention
of relaxing the projected Federal
authority over corporations, for the Pres-
ident offers a number of regulative
measures of very stringent character. To place
on the statute books the corporation
legislation outlined by Mr. Roosevelt
would be a task of unusual magnitude.
We have no idea that he hopes for the
enactment of more than a mere fraction
of it.

With respect to the currency, the Pres-
ident renews his hesitant expression of
last December, with some additions that
serve to clear up the subject. If there has
been expectation in the quarter of definite
Executive leadership in currency reform,
it will be grievously disappointed at find-
ing ex-Secretary Shaw's asset currency
scheme and Treasurer Treat's bond-
secured emergency currency plan men-
tioned in the same breath, as it were, as if
the two were not fundamentally opposed
in principle. However, the President
urges immediate action for the provision
of an elastic currency, and he is ob-
viously content to leave the entire subject
with Congress, which has the final voice
in the matter, anyway.

It rejoices that the President has at
last broken his long silence on the tariff
question, even though he does so only by
way of preface to his income and in-
heritance tax projects. That he has any
conception whatever of the great oppor-
tunity for reform involved in the abuse
of the protective tariff, or that he has
been impressed by the representations of
manufacturers as to the need of tariff
revision in the interest of foreign trade,
there is no evidence in his cautious para-
graphs remitting the whole subject to the
indefinite future known to standpatters
as "after the election." Mr. Roosevelt
doesn't favor a duty on works of art or
a duty on forest products and wood pulp,
but what has become of the recommenda-
tion he was going to make for the re-
moval of the duty on print paper? Did
Cannon, Dalsell, and Payne squeak that
the tariff was a sacred cow?

Notwithstanding the radiation of eco-
nomic proposals, when considered in
their entirety, there is nothing in the
message to alarm or disquiet either wide-
ows and orphans or millionaire captains
of industry. Whether it will be re-
sounding to the business world depends
somewhat on the point of view. If govern-
ment regulation of corporations is dan-
gerous to the public welfare, then the
President's continued agitation of that
question is full of menace; if not, then
the constructive solution he proposes, be-
ing preferable to destructive measures,
promises the assurance of sound indus-
trial development and a harmonious co-
operation of the better forces of our in-
dustrial civilization with the legitimate
regulative functions of the state. Nobody
should take fright at a righteous effort to

reform away the grave abuses of a com-
mercialized industrialism. If they be not
reformed righteously and constructively,
they will be some day reformed vindic-
tively, destructively, and disastrously.

Those who doubt that a new Congress
has assembled may be at ease. Gen.
Keller again announces his determination
to cut down the South's representation in
the House.

Expressing the Popular Will.

Discussion of the House rules is ad-
mittedly useless as long as the Republi-
can majority prevails, for the sanctity of
the rules is as unquestioned an article
of the party creed as the sanctity of the
protective tariff. We think, however,
that Messrs. Cooper and De Armond suc-
ceeded in making one or two points
against the present automatic system of
governing the House that are worth, at
least, a passing mention. Speaker Can-
non induced in some fine phrases to the
effect that the House is the only branch
of the government endowed with the high
and peculiar function of giving expres-
sion to the will of the people. But when
an examination is made of the mechanism
by which this expression of the popular
will is effected, it is found to consist
solely of that remarkable American
political institution known as the
Speaker of the House. So that what
Mr. Cannon meant when he said that the
will of the people could be expressed in
the House, and there only, "with a fair
approximation to scientific accuracy,"
was that he considered himself fully en-
abled of reaching that approximation by
virtue of his office.

It is not surprising, then, that Mr. De
Armond should have received an evasive
answer to his inquiry of the Speaker
whether a request from a majority of the
membership of the House would receive
favorable consideration from the auto-
crat of the House. Mr. Cannon's reply
to this was that the will of the majority,
under the law and the Constitution, has
always been law unto the Speaker. But
the majority here referred to is the Re-
publican majority, and that is always
under the thumb of the Speaker and his
allies. It is always possible to prevent
legislation favored by a mixed majority
of the House when the Speaker is hostile
to the wishes of that majority. Surely,
the rules constitute a most scientific
method of giving expression to the will
of the Speaker, whether or not they are
an effective vehicle for the working out
of the popular will. The Speaker's me-
taphysics obviously rest on the identity
of the two wills.

"If the mantle should fall on me, I
would not dodge it," says "Uncle Joe,"
in reference to the Presidency. In fact,
he might reach up and attempt to grab it,
if it happened to float in his direction.

The Bradleys et al.

Whatever may be the abstract legal as-
pect of cases such as the famous one just
decided in a close in Washington, it be-
comes more and more evident every day
that justice of the law will not convict
defendants so arraigned. With rare and
sharply differentiated exceptions, the re-
sult is ever the same—acquittal.

The oath that binds a juror to find a
verdict according to the facts as obtained
under the legal rules of evidence and the
law as given him in the charge by the
court is generally accepted as of an elastic
character nowadays. If verdicts of acquit-
tal in these cases appear satisfactory to
the conscience of the average upright
and honest juror, he quibbles not with
himself as to the exact psychological steps
by which he reaches such a verdict. Being
convinced in his heart and soul that such
a finding is just and proper in the sight
of God and his God, he cares very little
for mere details. The niceties, the exacti-
tudes, the technicalities of the law be-
wilder him, anyhow. He appears to grasp
one central and dominating idea, and
about it he shapes a decision that he
hesitates not to give full force in law,
notwithstanding the ifs, ands, buts, and
wherefores.

In his message to Congress, read yester-
day, the President expresses a great
truth when he says: "The two great evils
in the execution of our criminal laws are
sentimentality and technicality." It is
doubtful if the exact status of affairs
could be more lucidly expressed. We
agree with the President further when he
says: "For the latter (technicalities), the
remedy must come from the hands of
legislatures, the courts, the lawyers. The
former must depend for its cure upon the
gradual growth of a sound public
opinion, which shall insist that regard
for the law and the demands of reason
shall control all other influences in the
jury box."

Just how these reformations are to be
fostered and brought about the President
does not say. In both the Thaw and the
Bradley trials is presented a bewilder-
ing mass of both sentiment and techni-
cality. Thaw has not been convicted—
doubtless never will be. Mrs. Bradley is
free. As abstract propositions, such trials
are not to be viewed without uneasiness
and shame by the lawyer of intelligence
and character. The plea, "emotional in-
sane," broadly speaking, in these cases
is palpably insincere. To maintain that
plea, a set of so-called "aliens" usually
is summoned by the defendants, and to
combat it, a set summoned by the state.
Each swears according to the side of the
poetical questions, thousands of words in
length, utterly nonsensical and silly—and
as such service as an enlightening fac-
tor to the jury, doubtless, as would be a
Greek lexicon. The jury understands that
such a plea is a mere anchor to wind-
ward, and entered for the sole purpose
of giving the plea of "not guilty," en-
tered in connection with the insanity plea,
of course, legal standing. To this farcical
proceeding is added the usual weepy trim-
ming—and the trick is turned!

It must be patent to all lovers of home
and country, their laws and traditions,
that we are treading on dangerous ground
here. That the President, or some one
else whose words are taken for much, may
in time be able to offer us something by
way of detailed remedies along with a
statement of the evil conditions existing,
is most profoundly to be hoped.

It really looks unfair not to invite ex-
Senator Peffer to the White House to
discuss financial affairs, now that Mr.
Tom Watson has been requested to call.
"Oh, the snow, the beautiful snow!"
looks good to contractors, as you must
know," sings the New York Herald. All
good things come to those who wait; now,
here's a job where the rake-off's great!

Although the Sixteenth Congress is only
two days old, something like 6,000
bills have already been offered. Notwith-
standing that, however, there is still
plenty of room for more where the great
majority of these will land.

"People should eat alfalfa," says the
Pasadena News. Perhaps they do, in
their breakfast foods.

her face." We respectfully submit that
this style of beauty is not at all up to the
true Laura Jean Libbey standard.

Mr. Walter Wellman informs his Wash-
ington friends that he has not given up his
idea of flying to the north pole. Nor, do we
suppose, has the pole given up its idea
of waiting right there until he comes.

Scientists contend that there are no less
than thirty-four canals on Mars. The
government up there must have been
compelled to bridge over a lot of panics
in its time.

Nevertheless, the Jamestown Exposition
did finally meet its fates, didn't it?

Now that the Duc de Chaulnes has won
the consent of the bride's father, that lat-
ter gentleman will have to dig a great
deal deeper than he ever did in Panama.

Having walked 1,300 miles to get to Chi-
cago, Mr. Weston decided to ride away
from it on the fastest train he could
catch after taking a long rest. It isn't
at all surprising, however.

The Columbia State objects to a con-
temporaneous poetical idea of dining on
"sunny smiles." Well, how would "moon-
shine smiles" do?

Italy and Spain, the two most temperate
nations in the world, manage to get
along nicely without prohibition, but the
statement of those lands always were slow
to appreciate a handy political in-
strument.

"But all but save three Republican Sen-
ators will vote to sustain the President,"
says the New York Sun, agent the
Brownsville row. Who said, "But me no
butts?"

The Czar's ministers decline to agree
with the Douma that his majesty is no
longer an "autocrat," but promise rep-
resentative government, nevertheless. It
is such an easy matter for the ministers
to prove that two and two make eleven,
if the Czar so requires.

"Harry Thaw's sister has an annual in-
come of \$20,000, and no lawyers or alien-
ists' bills to pay," says the Arkansas Ga-
zette. She has an earl to support, how-
ever, and doubtless that is even worse.

Mr. John Johnson, of Minnesota,
is cutting a new tooth at the age of
seventy-eight. She is not the first mem-
ber of the John Johnson family up that
way to upset tradition and precedent,
however.

Isn't the reporter who writes it, "Con-
gressman Blank refused to talk," a nature
freak?

The Seattle Exposition will ask no govern-
ment aid. In this way it avoids the
embarrassment of being turned down.

"Don't handle bankrupts," advises an
Alabama contemporary. Very few people
do, to hurt.

Mr. Driftwood Armstrong speculates in
the Montgomery Advertiser concerning
the great difference between a girl in curl
papers and the wonderful creation that
swishes down the church aisle. Still, the
former is often an indispensable prelimi-
nary to the latter.

"According to Mr. Justice Brewer, three
and four make seven," says the Chicago
Record-Herald. As we understand him,
they make twenty-three.

The Democratic party has plenty of
Presidential timber, but it is all dead
wood," says the Baltimore American. Oh,
well, wait until the campaign gets under
way; perhaps the stump speakers may
cause you to change your mind.

"What we want is more business and
less politics," says Senator Rayner. Yes;
but what would be the use of Congress if
we played things that way?

Now that the jury has acquitted Mrs.
Bradley, we should like to know its frank
and honest opinion of a 13,000-word hypo-
thetical question.

PAYING THE NAVAL PIPER.

Don't Grumble at the Bills if You
Like Imperialism.

From the Baltimore Sun.

Old-fashioned people may look back
with regret to the good old days when the
United States was merely a republic, and
not an empire; but if the majority of
Americans favor imperialism they must
be prepared to accept all the conse-
quences which imperialism involves. One
of those consequences is a navy large
enough not only to protect this country
from attack, but to defend its distant
possessions. We cannot have one with-
out the other. It costs more money to
build a world power than to be a simple rep-
ublic, and if the new generation of Ameri-
cans prefer the pomp and circumstance
of imperialism to the old order of things
they must not grumble at the bills.

From the Springfield Republican.

The proposed enormous increase in the
size and cost of the fleet reflects the
Japanese war scare. A year or two ago
the Secretary of the Navy admitted the
maximum of strength had been reached,
and that in the future it would be nec-
essary merely to replace worn-out, obsolete
and obsolescent ships. Now the depart-
ment is plainly headed for a naval ex-
pansion that would doubtless be equiva-
lent to the doubling of the present navy
in size and efficiency. The action of Con-
gress will be awaited with exceptional in-
terest by every naval power in the world.

From the New York Herald.

The increase of the fleet suggested by
Mr. Metcalf errs, if anywhere, on the side
of conservatism. Instead of recommend-
ing only four battleships, not less than
six should have been his minimum stand-
ard of advance. This would furnish
three years from now a fine homogenous
squadron that would carry us far on our
way to our maximum of forty-five ships
of the first class.

From the Philadelphia Record.

It is estimated that there has been put
afoot in despite of legal prohibition by
banks and other employing corporations
as much as \$5,000,000 of circulating cur-
rency. What else can it be possible to do
to prevent a total stagnation of business?

This is practically an issue of asset cur-
rency without any better guarantee than
the good faith of the issuers. But there
does not appear to be any doubt in any
quarter of its redemption and retirement
from circulation directly after the re-
establishment of cash payments by the
banks. It was a boast made in Congress
after the subsidence of the panic of 1893
that not a dollar was loaned to the holders
of illegal emergency currency. The "shin-
plaster" has its uses.

Ought to Go Farther.

From the Wall Street Journal.

The President has taken a stand that
entitles him to the strongest commenda-
tion of all who desire that the public
service of the country shall be divorced
from partisanship and public official
made the mere reward of partisan ac-
tivities. The President ought to go farther,
however, and prohibit any office holder
from going to the convention.

From the Rochester Herald.

Justice Brewer's Figures.
According to the opinion of Justice
Brewer, three and four make seven, and
that's the signal for Roosevelt to get off.

From the Louisville Courier Journal.

A Poem of Feeling.
List that music's sweet vibrations,
Pulsing, thrilling, and inspiring;
To our ears that pleased sensations!
Spirits bound, our hope is high.
N'er a note came sweeter
To a hungry trembling soul.
Hear that sound, go start the hearer—
We are getting in our soul!

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE.

I.
Jim left in youth the dear old farm and
wandered far away.

The years rolled by; the sheriff came to
sell the farm one day.
Then up there drove a stranger grand,
who down the coin did plunk.
You've guessed the rest. The man was
Jim. He owned a city bank.

II.
John left one day the dear old bank; was
lost to view for years.
His dad, the banker, suffered much, and
got in deep arrears.

The sheriff came, but close behind,
to save the bank from harm,
A stranger came. The man was John.
He owned a paying farm.

Love's Shattered Dream.

"Have you a lady burglar in jail here?"
demanded a stout citizen.

"We have," answered the warden.
"Tell her that a prosperous blacksmith
offers matrimony."

"It wouldn't be any use."
"What do you mean, sir?"
"I mean," said the warden, "that she
is already considering offers of marriage
from two coal barons and six mailfactors
of great wealth."

"Then, as usual, the proletariat gets the
kibosh?"

"That's about the size of it."
"In that case I withdraw my proposal.
Tell her to marry a bloated plutocrat
and go her way."

Trouble in the Chorus.

"Say, Tottle, you nearly gouged my
eye out."

"And you've disarranged my pompa-
dour."

"Well, girls, my spear knows no sister."

And So On.

"Grafting must stop in 1908!"

The fourth line.

But later on they'll change the date
to 1909.

If We Only Could.

"We don't all want to get rich quick."

"Go way."

"Fact. Plenty of us would be satisfied
to acquire wealth gradually."

A Nature Fakie.

"What's this?" yelled the star. "Green
snow? I won't stand for it."

"You'll have to," retorted the manager.
"White paper is so high that I told the
property man to tear up a few stock cer-
tificates."

Sure Sign.

"Johnny, who won the football game?"

"I dunno."

"What was the score when you left?"

"I wasn't there."

"That's all right. Has that cruel girl thrown
you over again?"

ALTERNATING CURRENTS.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

SHE WONDERED WHY.

She scolded when he went away
To toil where selfish men would crowd
him.

But he forgot as through the day
He strove for what the fates allowed
him;

For her he did the best he might,
And gladly would he have done better;
She scolded when she learned at night
That he had failed to post her letter.

She scolded him because he smoked,
Declaring he could ill afford it;
She sniffed and fanned herself and
tobacco—puff! How she abhorred it!

She shook the curtains, calling it
A senseless and filthy habit,
And said that any man could quit
Who had the courage of a rabbit.

She scolded when he went to bed
Because he had not been more cheerful.
"You used to like to sit," she said—
"For tones were said, her eyes were tear-
ful."

"And tell me all the thoughts you had,
But now you never seem to care to!"
And then she sat alone and sad,
Suspecting that he did not dare to.

She scolded when he hurried where
The little and the great contended,
And frequently he lingered there
When all his trying tasks were ended,
And she, with many a fretful sigh,
Permitted sorrow to pursue her
As foolishly she wondered why
He did not hurry homeward to her.

A Mistake.

"I hear you have written a play."

"It's a mistake. I have written the pat-
ter that goes between the specialties
which the members of our company wish
to introduce."

A Foolish Question.

"And how long did you live in South
Dakota, Mrs. Thirldson?"

"How long? Good gracious, you wouldn't
expect me to live there an hour longer
than was necessary to comply with the
law, would you?"

Curious.

"I can't understand that man Billings-
ley."

"Billingsley? Why, he's one of the
most candid and straightforward men I
ever knew."

"I don't deny that. But his fortune has
shrunk greatly because of the big drop in
stocks, yet he isn't blaming Roosevelt at
all."

Gladness.

I'm glad that it is not my fate to soldier
cans at Kankakee;

I'm glad I do not have to knock around
at Knoxville, Tennessee;

It gives me joy to know that I am not at
Rutland, Vermont;

Or earning what I eat and wear by cut-
ting in Connecticut.

Few pleasant moments would be mine if
I at Warsaw had to saw

Or were by circumstance compelled to
sleep in straw at Haverstraw;

I might with little effort earn a hundred
blessings that I lack,

But I am glad I do not need to run a
hack at Hackensack.

Post-office Reforms.

From the New York Times.

There is no novelty in this idea that the
reform of the department itself might well
precede any fresh activities. The subject
was opened by Postmasters General Wil-
son and Wanamaker, and was discussed at
the dinner to Mr. Clevely in this city.
Perhaps if Mr. Meyer discovers that
progress is difficult with his new depart-
ment he will take greater interest in mat-
ters closer to his hand.

Entertaining a Woman.

From the Louisville Courier Journal.

The cynical Chicago News declares that
a woman is best entertained by the man
who says little and listens. Or, still bet-
ter, by the man who says little and spends
much.

Justice Brewer's Figures.

According to the opinion of Justice
Brewer, three and four make seven, and
that's the signal for Roosevelt to get off.

From the Rochester Herald.

A Poem of Feeling.

List that music's sweet vibrations,
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To our ears that pleased sensations!
Spirits bound, our hope is high.
N'er a note came sweeter
To a hungry trembling soul.
Hear that sound, go start the hearer—
We are getting in our soul!

From the New York Times.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

The chairman of the Senate Com-
mittee on District Affairs, Hon. Jacob
H. Gallinger, carries his burdens
lightly. He is besieged almost
constantly by local people, but
rarely loses his equanimity and
gives amiable, if not cordial, greet-
ing to all comers. One can hardly
credit the fact that the chairman
is seventy years old, for he looks
certainly ten years younger. A caller
yesterday brought to his attention a measure which
necessity would dictate in some form
and shape. The chairman listened, and
when the citizen left called
after him cheerily: "Come whenever
you can. I am glad to see you at any
time. The latesting is always on the
outside."